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clusions of analogy and sound reason, mean and indicate the opposite of the truth. As well might we maintain the delusiveness of all astronomical reasoning, and deny the earth's rotation and the sun's superior magnitude, because the ancient system of the universe is recognized by Moses.

On one topic Mr. Davies opens a new route for Biblical inquiry. He denies *on Scriptural grounds* the descent of the human race from a single pair. He supposes that God created on the sixth day types and progenitors of the various races of men, of which it fell within the historian's purpose to follow up the record only of the parent stock to which the Hebrews traced their descent. All Biblical scholars very well know that the same Hebrew word, through the first five chapters of Genesis, is translated sometimes "Adam," sometimes "man," sometimes "the man," and this without reference to the presence or absence of the article in the text. Mr. Davies, by sometimes using the generic term where our translators employ the individual designation, and *vice versa*, furnishes a rendering which serves his purpose, in which we can detect no error, and which certainly deserves the attention of Hebrew critics. Such an exposition relieves the sacred record from asserting or sanctioning the relations — too abhorrent from the dictates alike of natural fitness and revealed religion to be specified — which on the commonly received hypothesis must have existed among Adam's children.

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18. — *Climatology of the United States, and of the Temperate Latitudes of the North American Continent, embracing a full Comparison of these with the Climatology of the Temperate Latitudes of Europe and Asia. And especially in regard to Agriculture, Sanitary Investigations, and Engineering. With Isothermal and Rain Charts for each Season, the Extreme Months, and the Year. Including a Summary of the Statistics of Meteorological Observations in the United States, condensed from Recent Scientific and Official Publications.* By LORIN BLODGETT. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1857. 8vo. pp. 536. Charts and Plates XIII.

WE can convey in a brief notice no adequate idea of the magnitude and interest of this work, of the variety of sources that have been laid under contribution to its contents, and of the toil and skill requisite to adapt them for use, and to deduce the general facts, principles, and laws which they suggest or verify. Mr. Blodgett has collated all the observations bearing upon climate made at the United States military posts since

1819, and at the New York Academies since 1824, the collections furnished from various quarters to aid Mr. Espy in his researches, and the statistics that have been accumulating under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution. These are the basis, not of inferences, but of authentic generalizations. The author, instead of suggesting theories to which facts must be bent, or else thrown aside, has no theories which are not contained in continuous sequences of facts. His plan necessarily led to comparative views of the statistics of our own country with those of other portions of the globe, and thus to the determination of those features of physical geography which have a discernible influence on climate, such as the configuration of continents, the proportion of land and water, the altitude and direction of mountain chains, and the general or average elevation of the surface. The prevalent winds of the United States are also compared with those of Europe, with the view of ascertaining their conditions and laws. Another important range of observation includes the direction, velocity, antecedents, and limits of our winter storms, of which statistics from hour to hour and at numerous points, covering a space of from ten to fifteen years, have furnished certainly an ample basis for general conclusions. Isothermal Charts, designating the mean distribution of heat in the United States, for the months, for the seasons, and for the year, and Hyetal Charts, giving the mean fall of rain for the seasons and for the year, are constructed with the most elaborate care, and accompanied with such explanations as are needed to facilitate their use. We have also, in three successive chapters, an accurate determination of the climatological range of native forests and vegetation; of maize, sugar-cane, cotton, and the grape; and of the cereal grains and the grasses. These are followed by a chapter on the "General Sanitary Relations of the United States Climate," with such tabular views as have been furnished by our very imperfect sanitary statistics. As to the permanence of climate Mr. Blodgett gives satisfactory reasons for departing from the popular belief of its secular variations, statistics where obtainable indicating no essential change, while the general impression to the contrary may be accounted for by the transmitted traditions of exceptional years. Under this head, he classes many of the supposed modifying causes, as effects, of climate. "If the most extreme desert surface of the earth were brought under the conditions prevailing in the British Islands, for instance, those conditions would clothe it with vegetation and cultivable soil."

We have but indicated a small portion of the contents of this massive, closely printed, and fact-full volume. It has received the unqualified approval of Baron Humboldt, and cannot but attract through the

scientific world the most emphatic verdict of commendation. It is second to no production of the day in the marks of patient industry, careful elaboration, lucid method, and philosophic reasoning. As an American work, it does honor to the nation; as a contribution to science, its importance cannot be overrated.

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- 19.—1. *Mabel Vaughan*. By the Author of "The Lamplighter." Boston: John P. Jewett & Co. 1857. 12mo. pp. 508.
2. *Here and Hereafter*; or, *The Two Altars*. By ANNA ATHERN, Author of "Step by Step; or, Delia Arlington." Boston: Crosby, Nichols, & Co. 1858. 12mo. pp. 376.

MABEL VAUGHAN has disappointed our expectations in a way in which we are glad to be disappointed. To our mind it very far out-distances its predecessor in merit. In "The Lamplighter," we admired the personage that gives name to the book, and could not but sympathize with the fortunes of the heroine; yet the story did not seem to us skilfully constructed, and many of the incidents were beyond the range of even a novelist's probability. In this new tale, Mabel, the central figure, yields in interest to no character of recent fiction; the plot is strongly conceived, and developed naturally and happily; and the sketches of rural, city, and Western life are wonderfully fresh, vivid, and authentic. At the same time, the story, in its main series of events, in its by-plots, in its mere details, is fraught with the highest truths of morality and religion; and these are not obtruded upon the reader, but so incorporated with the whole texture of the tale, that he must either take them in, or leave the book unread. We note also a marked improvement in style, and cannot but predict for the accomplished author a high and enduring place among our American novelists.

We can see no reason to slacken or essentially vary our eulogy, in passing to "Here and Hereafter." It is a continuation of "Delia Arlington," the story of the two marriages which did *not* take place in that pioneer volume. Here the distinctively religious purpose is more prominent than in "Mabel Vaughan"; but, as there, the lessons of faith and piety are embodied in the life-experiences of the characters, not set forth in formal dialogues or in the author's running commentary. Indeed, were we to specify one among the many features of high artistic excellence in "Here and Hereafter," it would be the simplicity, naturalness, lifelikeness, of the conversations.